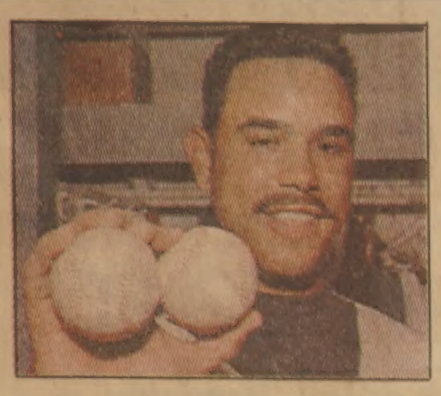
FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 9, 1993 35 CENTS NEWSSTAND

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

TIMES-UNION



The Associated Press

Cleveland's Carlos Baerga

HITS *record home runs —* **1D**

Three stabbed as groups brawl

1 man seriously hurt after fight near bar

By STEVE ORR
Staff writer

Three men were stabbed early this morning during a fight between two groups of people outside a West Main Street bar, and Rochester police were trying to determine the reason for the confrontation.

At least one of the three, identified by police as 26-year-old Donald Williams of 174 Barton St., was seriously injured with stab wounds in the chest and arm.

He underwent surgery this morning at St. Mary's Hospital, police said. A hospital spokeswoman said he was in "guarded" condition in the intensive care facility late this morning.

A man by the same name who gave police the same age and address was a major player in another brawl outside a Rochester bar several months ago. Police could not say whether it was in fact the same man.

In that melee, a Donald Williams was reportedly kicking a man in the face when police arrived outside the Club L'Afrique on North Clinton Avenue.

In a struggle, he grabbed a police officer's handgun and attacked officers as a general melee ensued involving about 15 citizens and a similar number of police, according to police accounts.

The other two men stabbed early this morning were identified by police as Donnell Owens, 18, of 116 S. Plymouth Ave. and Dennis Allen, 29, of 794½ Genesee St.

Allen was in "satisfactory" condition at Strong Memorial Hospital late this morning. Neither St. Mary's nor Strong had a record of admitting Owens.

Police said the confrontation apparently started inside the BK Lounge, at 452 W. Main St., and spilled out onto the street just before 1 a.m.

About 10 or 15 people from two groups were involved, officers said. The three injured men were all taken to the hospital in private cars and were not at the scene when police arrived.

Police were trying to identify suspects and the cause of the fight this morning.

(Includes reporting by Valerie Smith)

Gay Alliance wins tax lawsuit

State judge rules city harassed group, discriminated on exemption

By GARY CRAIG
Staff writer

The city of Rochester, which has refused to grant a property-tax exemption to the Gay Alliance of Genesee Valley Inc., apparently discriminated against the organization because it represents and advocates the rights of homosexuals, according to a ruling from a state Supreme Court justice.

The Alliance is entitled to the exemption, Justice Andrew V. Siracuse ruled this week. He also ruled that the city apparently resorted to recent legal tactics solely to "harass" the alliance and to "delay the resolution of this case."

Siracuse, in turn, has ordered that a hearing be held within the next 30 days to decide whether financial sanctions should be imposed against the city for its legal maneuvering. He also has ordered that the city pay the Alliance's legal fees.

"This case will have implications for all gay-rights organizations," said Alliance lawyer Ellen Yacknin. "It's landmark because it finds that the city cannot discriminate and single out the Gay Alliance.

"We're very pleased that the judge recognized that the city was simply trying to keep the Gay Alliance in the closet by isolating the Gay Alliance and claiming it only helps its members," she said.

City officials could not be reached this morning.

The dispute is entering its third year, and dates back to the city assessor's refusal in March 1991 to grant an exemption for the Alliance's community center at 179-183 Atlantic Ave. The Alliance appealed to the city, but the Board of Assessment Review

Please turn to back of section

> *"It is hard to escape the suspicion that the demands were made in order to harass and prejudice the Alliance and to delay the resolution of this case."*
>
> **Justice Andrew V. Siracuse**

TORNADO KILLS THREE IN LOUISIANA VILLAGE

The Associated Press

A family walks past the high school in Grand Isle, La., after a tornado ripped the building open yesterday afternoon as classes were being dismissed. The storm killed three people and injured 21 in the Gulf Coast fishing village.

CLINTON BUDGET

President's plan comes up short of campaign pledges

ANALYSIS

By JEFFREY STINSON
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — President Clinton, who pledged to change how government operates, came up short of meeting many of his grandiose campaign promises in the budget he sent Congress.

Take, for instance, his biggest applause-getter on the campaign trail: A "national service" corps to permit students to borrow for college and pay it back through community service.

There is money for it in Clinton's proposed budget for the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1. But only enough — $394 million — for 25,000 students. Including 100,000 students would cost some $3.4 billion; Clinton does not plan to budget that much for his pet project until 1997.

Or consider welfare reform — another campaign applause-getter. Clinton promised two years of health and child care while welfare mothers get training and continue to collect public assistance. After that, they would have to find work.

Clinton will not give Congress his trial welfare plan until later this year, and only $60 million is earmarked to start up one portion of what is expected to be an expensive reform.

It is not surprising Clinton's initiatives generally are tentative. During one presidential debate, as questioners tried to pin him down on raising taxes on the middle class, Clinton said he would not do so to pay for his programs. Rather, to avoid taxes, he would slow the implementation of some spending initiatives.

The relatively modest spending programs he has proposed already have caused bitter fights with the Republicans. More ambitious programs — with the tax hikes or swollen deficits that would have to support them — would only make matters worse and probably would cost support of some moderate and conservative Democrats.

But lowered horizons are not limited to welfare and national service.

Several campaign promises — such as putting 100,000 more cops on the streets — were scaled back to start-up programs when it came to finally putting dollars into Clinton's first budget.

But that did not dampen Clinton's ardor.

"The plan flows from the demand of the American people for change and my vision of what America can be if we embark upon an economic strategy of investing in people and putting people first," he told Congress in a letter accompanying his budget yesterday.

"Enactment of the proposals in this budget will bring the vision that underlies my plan — a vision of a brighter, more prosperous future for America — a step closer to reality."

The less-than-auspicious start for some of the popular Clinton proposals can be attributed partly to his need to put more dollars into reducing the out-of-control budget deficit.

To bring down the deficit over the long haul, Clinton insists the nation's health-care system must be controlled. Yet, health-care reform is absent from the budget — his proposal for controlling costs and extending coverage for everyone will not be unveiled until May.

March CPI report eases fears of inflation

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Consumer prices edged up only 0.1 percent in March, helped by the smallest increase in medical care costs in nine years, the government said today in a report that eased inflation worries.

The slight, seasonally-adjusted increase in the Labor Department's Consumer Price Index followed increases of 0.3 percent in February and 0.5 percent in January. The earlier reports had raised fears among some economists that inflation had stopped declining and was starting to accelerate.

The seasonally adjusted annual rate of inflation for the year so far is 4 percent, significantly higher than the 2.9 percent rate for all of 1992.

More importantly for economists, the core inflation rate — prices excluding the volatile food and energy sectors — has risen at a 4.3 percent annual rate so far this year, compared with 3.3 percent for all of last year.

Those core prices, which analysts consider a better measure of underlying inflationary pressures than the overall rate, shot up 0.5 percent during both January and February but rose only 0.1 percent in March.

The department yesterday said core prices charged by producers, such as farms and factories, also rose 0.1 percent in March. However, the Producer Price Index, which includes food and energy, rose a more worrisome 0.4 percent.

In March, the mild consumer inflation came despite a 0.7 percent jump in energy prices — the biggest in eight months.

Gasoline prices fell 0.4 percent. But fuel oil prices jumped 2.5 percent, natural gas advanced 1.6 percent and electricity, 1.4 percent.

Food and beverage prices in March rose 0.1 percent for the second consecutive month. The index for meat, poultry, fish and eggs jumped 0.8 percent, with pork prices alone rising 1.6 percent and poultry climbing 2 percent. Fruit prices fell, offsetting an increase in vegetable prices, including an 18.8 percent advance in lettuce prices. The price of cereals and baked goods fell.

The core inflation rate was held down by a milder than usual increase in medical care costs, 0.3 percent in March, the smallest since March 1984. They climbed 0.5 percent in February and 0.6 percent in January.

BLUE STREAK FINAL

Classified	*4D*	*Money*	*5B*
Comics	*6, 7C*	*Movies*	*4, 5C*
Dear Abby	*3C*	*People*	*2A*
Deaths	*3B*	*Scoreboard*	*2D*
Editorial	*8, 9A*	*State*	*4B*
Lottery	*2A*	*Television*	*2C*

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WEATHER *Rain tonight. Low 45 to 50. Rain tomorrow morning, then partial clearing. High 55. Sunny periods Sunday. Low 40, high 50. (Details, 3A.)*

His persistent bad dream is an old rerun

DICK DOUGHERTY

I just found out that the nightmare I've been working on for the last 56 years is not only not unique, it is so common it has a name.

It's called the Examination Dream and just about everyone has had it, often repeatedly.

My personal variation is this: I'm in Miss Taylor's French class in high school. I haven't taken a single note or cracked a book all year and now it is exam time. I turn over the first sheet and don't understand a word. *The damn thing is in French!*

Actually, I passed French with a C. But the night before the exam I had the dream for the first time. The strange part is that it keeps coming back and so does Miss Taylor. When I was a city editor down here at

Please turn to back of section

NATION

Bad water linked to Milwaukee illness

Thousands are sick; farm runoff suspected

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Milwaukee health officials say runoff from slaughterhouses and farms may have contaminated the tap water, making thousands of people sick.

The outbreak this week has sent people dashing to stores for anti-diarrhea medicine and bottled water. Schools covered drinking fountains yesterday, and restaurants boiled large pots of water for washing food and making coffee.

Laboratory tests found that at least 23 victims were infected by the water-borne parasite cryptosporidium, which produces stomach cramps, fever and diarrhea, said Thomas Schlenker, medical director for the Health Department.

Cryptosporidium is found in the intestinal tracts of animals, and officials were checking whether runoff from farms and slaughterhouses had put the microscopic organism into rivers that flow into Lake Michigan, from which Milwaukee draw its drinking water, City Health Commissioner Paul Nannis said.

Nannis said officials still were considering other possible causes of the sickness, but they were sure it is water-borne.

Mayor John O. Norquist said that about 800,000 people served by the municipal water system should keep boiling tap water for drinking and cleaning food until the source of the contamination is located and remedied.

He ordered the shutdown of the purification plant on the city's south side today because the illness seemed to be concentrated there. Also, water from that plant was cloudier than usual.

A plant on Milwaukee's north side can handle the volume in the meantime and is more likely to have good water, the mayor said. Meanwhile, the Milwaukee Water Works increased chlorination and improved filtration.

Schlenker said hundreds of people had sought medical help for the illness. Most victims have been able to recover without seeing a doctor.

"For healthy people, it's a few days of inconvenience and then it's over," he said.

But it poses a bigger threat to people with immune systems weakened by AIDS and other conditions because it can invade the bloodstream and other organ systems, Schlenker said.

The boil-water advisory was expected to remain in effect through the Easter weekend while officials awaited the results of tests at the plants.

Hospitals and businesses placed huge orders for bottled water and water coolers, and spring-water bottlers struggled to keep up.

"We're working frantically to get enough empty bottles and add shifts to meet demand," said Todd Peterson, president of Chippewa Springs Ltd.

PEOPLE OF THE TIMES

Songwriter charges Billy Ray Cyrus with violating copyright in new hit

Singer **Billy Ray Cyrus** was slapped with a copyright infringement lawsuit yesterday over his single, *She's Not Cryin' Anymore.*

Danny Mote, a Winston, Ga., songwriter, charges that Cyrus and co-writers **Buddy Cannon** and **Terry Shelton** copied substantial portions of his 1973 song *Crying Eyes.* The lawsuit, filed in Nashville, Tenn., did not name a specific amount sought in damages.

She's Not Cryin' Anymore is No. 6 on *Billboard's* country chart.

Cyrus is touring Australia and could not be reached for comment.

White House gets ready for Easter Egg Roll

The White House got down to hard-boiled business yesterday, boiling thousands of eggs in preparation for Monday's annual White House Easter Egg Roll.

"Each time, the event takes on the tone of the resident of the White House," said organizer **Michael Berman,** who also produced the **Bush** administration's four egg hunts. He said the Bushes' events were more intimate, while the **Clintons'** will be more inclusive.

Besides the hard-boiled eggs, the hunt will be on for 30,000 wooden eggs, some autographed by such stars as **Barbra Streisand, Paul Newman, Tom Cruise, Jane Fonda, Ted Turner** and the Grateful Dead. The White House cat, Socks, added his pawprint to some too.

Farrow tape spliced together, expert says

An electronics expert testified that **Mia Farrow's** videotape of her daughter **Dylan** accusing **Woody Allen** of child molesting was pieced together from 12 segments, and Allen's lawyer said that makes it worthless as evidence.

Paul Ginsberg, who runs an audio laboratory, testified in the couple's child-custody dispute in Manhattan yesterday. Farrow has testified that she shot the videotape over two days.

Letterman's sidekick becomes father

Paul Shaffer, David Letterman's 43-year-old bandleader, became a father yesterday. Wife **Cathy** gave birth to a daughter, **Victoria Lily,** 7 pounds 5 ounces. Everybody is doing well.

Photographer says Gibson's guard hit him

Mel Gibson just wanted a quiet night out, but it ended with a photographer charging that Gibson's bodyguard assaulted him outside Tatou in Manhattan.

Gibson and a guard were sneaked in via the VIP door Wednesday, avoiding any photogs who might have been at the main entrance to catch **Stevie Wonder,** partying for daughter **Aisha's** 18th birthday.

When they left after two hours, about 2 a.m., one lurking photog, **James Edstrom,** raised his lethal weapon. As Gibson scowled, the guard started to shove and punch Edstrom, says Edstrom.

Edstrom filed a police report and says he is negotiating with *A Current Affair* and with a lawyer for possible damages.

The Associated Press

MAKING COMEBACK *Gregory Hines (left) and Ben Vereen take a curtain call yesterday after* Jelly's Last Jam *on Broadway. An accident in June critically injured Vereen.*

NAACP chief: Don't cancel 'Homicide'

Benjamin L. Hooks, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has written to NBC as a fan of the *Homicide* series and, on behalf of the half million NAACP members, expressed the hope it won't be canceled.

In a recent letter to Entertainment President **Warren Littlefield,** Hooks praised the show, which is going on hiatus, as "truly outstanding" with "many positive portrayals of African Americans."

A spokesman for NBC Entertainment said yesterday that *Homicide* is a candidate for the fall schedule.

ABC negotiates to do Madonna miniseries

A two-part, four-hour miniseries about **Madonna's** "early life" is expected to be broadcast later this year on ABC-TV.

It is expected to be part of a larger deal ABC was reported negotiating with the pop star's Maverick Productions, says the *Hollywood Reporter,* a trade publication. Other industry sources speculated that the deal might include a one-on-one interview, along the lines of talk-show host **Oprah Winfrey's** talk with **Michael Jackson.**

Compiled from Gannett News Service, Knight-Ridder News Service, The Associated Press, The Washington Post, New York Daily News *and* Newsday.

DEATHS

The Associated Press

■ **Kemal Ilicak,** a journalist, publisher and businessman, died of a brain hemorrhage today in Istanbul, Turkey. He was 61.

Ilicak was the owner of the floundering center-right Istanbul daily *Tercuman.* He had recently been linked to a real-estate scandal when opposition leader Mesut Yilmaz alleged that Ilicak had brokered a questionable purchase of land by the Ministry of Education.

Ilicak owned plants in Frankfurt, Germany, where more than 20 publications, including *The Wall Street Journal,* were printed for distribution in Europe.

■ **Lawrence H. LoPatin,** developer of Michigan International Speedway, Windsor Raceway and other entertainment centers around the country, died of cancer Tuesday in a San Francisco hospital. He was 67.

■ **Gabor Peter,** who as postwar chief of Hungary's secret police was one of the nation's most hated and feared men, died on Jan. 23 in Budapest, news reports said yesterday. He was 86.

Peter joined Hungary's then-illegal Communist Party in 1931.

When his Soviet mentor, Lavrenti Beria, was executed in 1953 after the death of Josef Stalin, Peter, who had allegedly tortured political opponents, was arrested and blamed for the Communists' political show trials of 1948 to 1952.

■ **Richard Schmiechen,** a producer who won a 1984 Oscar for the documentary *The Times of Harvey Milk,* died of AIDS Wednesday in Los Angeles. He was 45.

His other film and TV credits included *The Portrait, Arboreal Aviators, The Jungle Flying Machine* and *Changing Our Minds,* which was nominated for a documentary feature Oscar this year.

■ **Richard E. Sherwood,** president of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art from 1974 to 1978, died of a brain hemorrhage Thursday yesterday in Los Angeles. He was 64.

WINNING NUMBERS

818 Yesterday's number drawn in New York's numbers game.

The Win 4 number was 6047.

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A runoff tests political strength

By GARY MULDOON

In a March 23 *Times-Union* editorial ("A 23% mayor? It's possible"), the idea of a mayoral runoff was raised. At last count there were seven — no, wait, make it eight — Democratic candidates, with others waiting in the wings. While the designation process may cull out some, not only is a primary inevitable, but a primary with half a dozen candidates is likely.

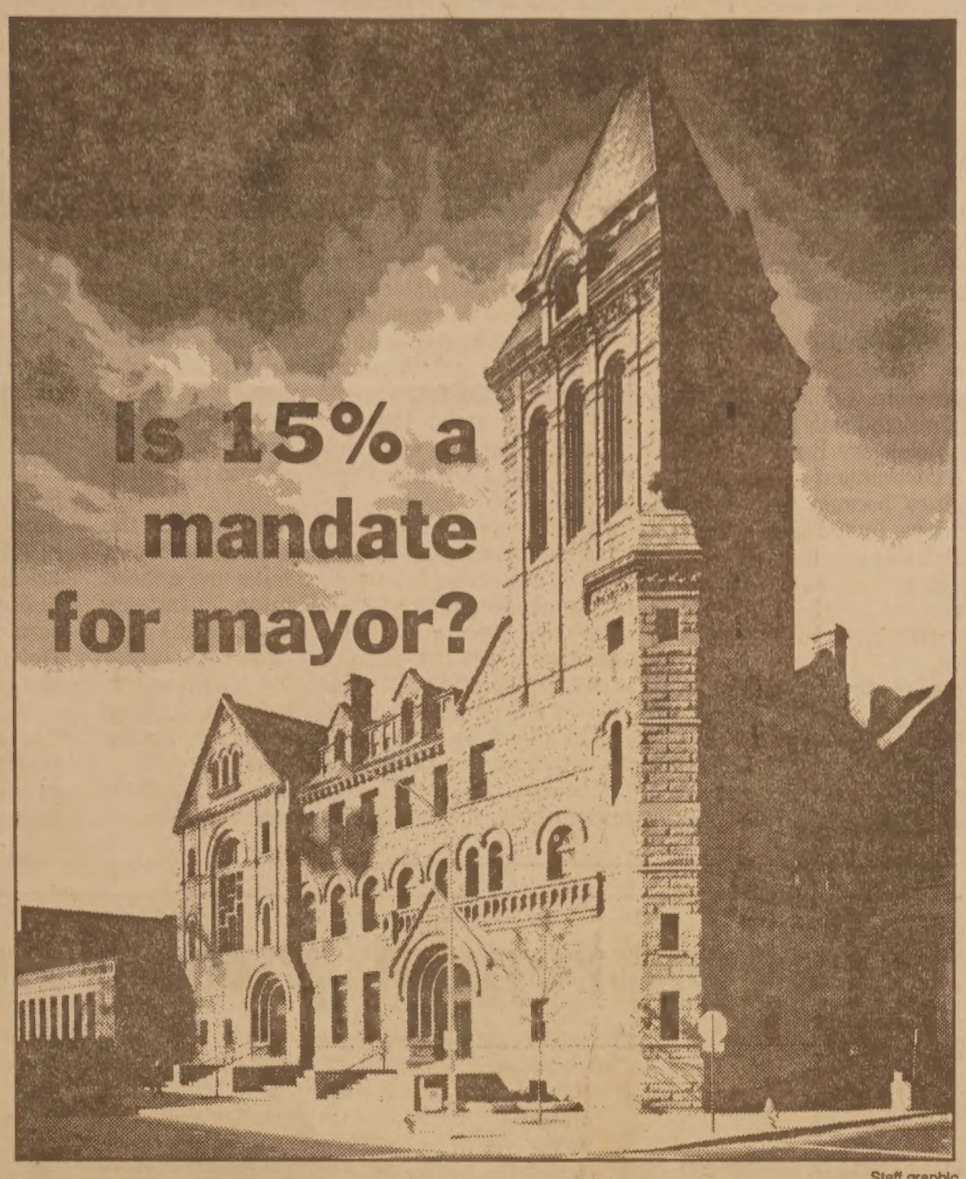
Therein lies the significant danger of splitting the primary votes in as many ways. In theory, a candidate with 15 percent of the vote could win; more realistically, the primary winner will have around 25 percent to 30 percent. Somehow the idea of a crapshoot invites comparison.

But even 30 percent of the vote is an exceedingly weak mandate for any primary winner. Let's face it, whoever wins the Democratic primary is the odds-on winner of the November election. (The Republican Party is moribund within city limits.) Such a low percentage allows a splinter candidate, whose political troops are true believers, to deliver for him or her on Primary Day.

THAT'S A disturbing possibility for the chief executive of the largest municipality in our metropolitan area. Any person entering office with 30 percent or less backing will be an exceedingly weak mayor.

The editorial solution, a runoff, has a certain amount of merit. If there is no clear primary winner (say, someone with 40 percent of the vote), requiring a runoff between the top two contenders makes sense.

In fact, a runoff could be held this year. It would require state legislation, with a home-rule message from the City Council. New York City currently provides for a runoff primary.



Staff graphic

> *"Objectively, the runoff idea has great appeal. But there are problems that intrude upon the process: politics, personalities and race. With an issue of this type and importance, politics is inevitable, regardless of the year."*

Objectively, the runoff idea has great appeal. But there are problems that intrude upon the process: politics, personalities and race. With an issue of this type and importance, politics is inevitable, regardless of the year.

Personalities. Unfortunately, we are already well into the silly season. The issue of a runoff should have come up in a non-mayoral election year, at a time when the players might have been more concerned with the future of the city than with their own futures. Some will argue that the integrity of the process would be violated by changing the rules for the current year.

Additionally, there is another significant factor to be considered: race. How would a runoff affect black or Hispanic candidates? In some southern states, runoffs, an ostensibly objective process, have been used by the white majority to prevent black candidates from being elected. Where there is a sizable emerging black population, but still below 50 percent, a black candidate may be able to place first in a field of three or more, but have a more difficult time in a one-on-one race in a runoff against a white candidate.

YET SOME minority candidates running for mayor this year have shown strong "crossover" ability in the past, appealing beyond racial and ethnic lines in city-wide races. A 40 percent requirement to win the primary would seem to be a fair threshold. The problem of a splintered vote through many candidates is not confined to Rochester. Rochester may be in better shape than Los Angeles, which now has 24 candidates for mayor!

I feel a bit like Cassandra in writing this, warning of things to come. My concern is that on Sept. 15, the day after the primary, the collective Rochester population will wake up in dismay. A de facto mayor, a niche candidate, with just a 25 percent bloc of votes, will have been elected. We will say, why didn't we provide for a runoff this year?

Muldoon

Runoff is an idea worthy of discussion — pronto.

Muldoon is a member of the Rochester City Council.

City schools ignore a mother's attempt to help

By SHIRLEY A. MURPHY

My daughter Danielle attends Rochester City School 41. This is my first experience with a city school.

Danielle was scheduled to start her first city school at School 29 in September 1992. I had some concerns about this, so in June 1992, I went to School 29 to meet with the principal and take a look at the fifth-grade curriculum.

When I got to the school, the principal didn't have time to speak with me, so she sent me to the vice principal. The vice principal was not interested in what I had to say. As it turns out, at the end of the school year she would no longer be the vice principal.

That October, I received a call from central office, stating that there was an opening at School 41, a magnet school for computers and science. Danielle entered in October.

IN NOVEMBER, I made an appointment to talk with Danielle's teacher, because she was still doing a review of fourth-grade work, and she was bored. He stated that there were some extra materials that he could give her as additional work to take home, and I agreed. Danielle never received the extra materials.

In February 1993, I went to see the vice principal. We talked about my concerns with the curriculum and he stated that I should continue to "communicate" with Danielle's teacher.

I asked the vice principal what the school was planning to do in celebration of Black History Month. He stated that the children were writing about black history and some of the writings were being displayed on boards throughout the school. I said that was not enough.

I offered him several ideas, even suggesting that some of the people that I work with would be interested in coming to the school to talk with the students about their experience in black history. He said it sounded like a good idea and he would be in touch with me. He never called.

Later that evening, I received a call at home from Danielle's teacher. We spoke about the lack of teaching black history in his class. He stated that his class had spent a week talking about black history, and he felt that was enough. I asked him how one week could be enough to cover all of black history. Thirty days is not enough. It needs to be included as part of the entire curriculum. We agreed to disagree.

> *"If the current administration is not responding to parents, get them out of the schools! If the teachers are not responding to parents, get them out of the schools, don't reward them for not teaching."*

At the end of February, I called Manuel Rivera, the superintendent of schools, to schedule some time with him to talk about my concerns. I was concerned about the curriculum, the lack of incorporating black history into the "normal" curriculum, the lack of learning computers and science skills by the magnet school, and the lack of attention from the administration of School 41.

Well, Mr. Rivera didn't return my phone calls. Finally, after my third message, I spoke with his secretary and she suggested that I call the assistant superintendent, Ann Weintraub. I called Ms. Weintraub; she never called me back.

THERE IS talk about raising the salary of teachers by 3, 4, or even 7 percent. How can anyone in their right mind think of raising teachers' salaries? Not until we get some results! Results mean responding and addressing legitimate concerns with parents. Results mean addressing the learning needs of all students as individuals, not just as a collective entity. All children are different and should be treated as such.

The lack of responsiveness is appalling and these people should never be allowed to hold such important positions in our children's lives. I realize there are problems with budgets, so why give teachers raises?

Have them produce results first. Have them focus on the children first. Have them do their jobs first. Then think about giving them a raise. Listen to and involve all the parents who want to be involved, not just the chosen few.

A FEW parents are not representative of the total populace. Involve us all. Establish a partnership with parents and businesses to ensure that our children get the best education possible. Take some of the responsibility from the school administration and place it on the community.

If the current administration is not responding to parents, get them out of the schools. If the teachers are not responding to parents, get them out of the schools, don't reward them for not teaching.

Education is the most important part of a child's life, it helps to shape their future. Teachers, parents and administrators need to work together to develop the correct curriculum for each child. Develop the specific needs of each child. Take the opportunity to bring businesses into the schools.

Murphy, of Rochester, works at Xerox.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who's going to pay bills?

What does a taxpaying citizen have to do to make sense out of the ridiculous controversies going on in our times? Our new president is poised to set tax increases in place to reduce the national deficit. That calls for sacrifices. OK, we know how to sacrifice, but look at what we are doing to make matters worse, instead of better.

You ran an article that District Attorney Howard Relin disagrees with distributing "clean" needles to drug addicts. The special-interest group (SIG) feels we can stop the spread of AIDS by getting rid of contaminated needles among drug users. Who's going to pay for the clean needles?

Another SIG wants to build a new baseball stadium here. The argument seems to be that if we don't spend the money, some other town will. Am I missing something? Shouldn't we be asking ourselves who wants a stadium and where our priorities are for spending money?

It seems the simple solution is for taxpaying citizens to band together and force our representatives to put all of these so-called SIG and pork-barrel programs to the simple return-on-investment test that any corporation would use to judge the benefits. It's time our elected officials stepped up to the bottom line and shed themselves of the SIG influences. Time to sacrifice!

Howard W. Jones
Irondequoit

I won't back pay raise

Recently, several groups and media sources have stated that the state Legislature is considering the development of a commission that would study the merits of a pay increase for various state officials, including legislators.

As the Assembly representative for the 134th District, I want to make my position crystal clear: I will not support any pay raise proposal.

At a time when the Legislature is being called on to provide financial assistance to numerous worthy programs and services, I think that we legislators should place our interests at the end of the line. And at a time when businesses and individuals are overburdened by taxes and fees, I think we legislators should place their interests at the head of the line.

Joseph E. Robach
Greece
Member of Assembly

Just do something

It is spring, the snow is almost gone and I am thinking it would be near the time to be selecting flowers to put around the outside of my house.

But I live in Irondequoit and that is no longer feasible. Why? Because the deer in the past few years have eaten and destroyed any and all of the pretty, colorful plants so I won't waste my money again.

The deer have begun to destroy my lawn, too. During the winter, two large bare spots appeared and my neighbor told me he has seen the male deer paw the snow through to the grass, so now it is a plain dirt spot. He says this is the way the males mark their territory and attract the females.

Then I read in your newspaper letters and articles from people who do not live in Irondequoit who believe that the deer population were there first and I should just live with their destruction of my lawn. I am annoyed.

Do something, whether it is to continue the bait-and-shoot program, or trapping and removing the deer. I do not care, but I live here, too. People would not be allowed to destroy property the way the deer are. And if you don't live here, be considerate of those who do and are having problems with the deer.

Barbara J. Cappon
Irondequoit

A new tour guide

Dateline on March 24 certainly brought back a little nostalgia. The tour of the White House by Bill Clinton reminded me of the Kennedy era, when Jack Kennedy was president and Jackie gave the tour.

Now Hillary is president and Bill gave the tour!

Alfred Gilbert
Irondequoit

READERS' SAY TOWN MEETING

Ask Chief Irving

The Rochester Police Department has been through a very difficult 2½ years, starting with the arrest of then Chief Gordon Urlacher and concluding with the acquittal of five officers charged with civil rights violations — officers who had been charged after an exhaustive police department investigation led by Chief Roy Irving.

This is your chance to ask Chief Irving about the turmoil in his department, about police policies, plans for community policing, efforts to crack down on drug houses, or whatever strikes you as important.

Fax or mail your questions to the Readers' Say page. Or call us directly, if you like, at 258-2351. We'll need your name, address, a daytime phone number and your question. Be brief and to the point; no speeches, please.

We'll pick a representative group of your questions and put them to the chief. Then we'll run your questions and his answers in our first Readers' Say Town Meeting.

Irving

You can mail this form to Readers' Say Town Meeting, c/o Doug Sherman, 55 Exchange Blvd., Rochester N.Y. 14614.

Or fax it to us at 258-2691.

Name.....

Address.....

Daytime telephone .....

Question .....

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P.M. REPORT

The Associated Press

N.Y.C. bomb suspect was investigated in '91

NEW YORK — FBI agents searched for explosives at the Brooklyn home of a World Trade Center bombing suspect as long as two years ago, a newspaper reported today.

Federal investigators, acting on a tip that Mahmud Abouhalima had explosives and other bombing equipment, in March 1991 searched the apartment of the former cabbie and questioned him days later, *New York Newsday* said.

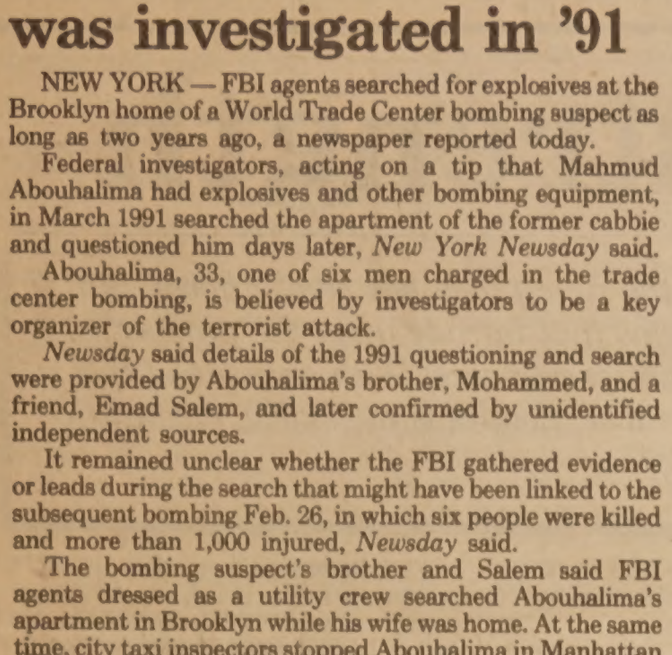
Abouhalima, 33, one of six men charged in the trade center bombing, is believed by investigators to be a key organizer of the terrorist attack.

Newsday said details of the 1991 questioning and search were provided by Abouhalima's brother, Mohammed, and a friend, Emad Salem, and later confirmed by unidentified independent sources.

It remained unclear whether the FBI gathered evidence or leads during the search that might have been linked to the subsequent bombing Feb. 26, in which six people were killed and more than 1,000 injured, *Newsday* said.

The bombing suspect's brother and Salem said FBI agents dressed as a utility crew searched Abouhalima's apartment in Brooklyn while his wife was home. At the same time, city taxi inspectors stopped Abouhalima in Manhattan and charged him with five taxi violations, the sources said.

A week to 10 days later, Abouhalima was questioned at FBI offices in Manhattan, his brother told *Newsday*.



The Associated Press

CRUCIFIXION REENACTED *Faith healer Amparo Santos talks into a microphone today while being nailed onto a cross in Kapitangan, Philippines. One of at least 16 in the area who re-enacted Jesus' death, she spent 20 minutes singing and reciting poems. It was the seventh year she did this, and she said she will return next year. Such practices are discouraged by the Roman Catholic Church but are entrenched in rural areas.*

5 hurt in Quebec train derailment

LA TUQUE, Quebec — A train derailed today in a remote area of Quebec, injuring at least four passengers and one crew member, police said.

Sixty-nine passengers and four crew were on board the Via train that left the track near La Tuque, about 120 miles north of Montreal.

Via spokeman Malcolm Andrew said a passenger and locomotive engineer were seriously hurt. He described the other injuries as minor.

The accident occurred in an area accessible only by air or rail, police spokesman Yvan Laverdiere said. A helicopter was sent to evacuate the injured.

Police said the train ran into a landslide, but another report said water on the track may have been a factor.

3 killed as 2 trains collide in Berlin

BERLIN — Two trains collided head-on today in the city, killing 3 people and injuring 18 others, police said.

Rescue workers removed victims from the wreckage, and helicopters rushed the injured to hospitals.

The Federal Border Police said in a statement that 3 people were killed and at least one seriously injured when the two Intercity trains collided at the Wannsee station in southwestern Berlin.

Earthquake shakes south Texas

JOURDANTON, Texas — An earthquake rattled parts of southern Texas today, shaking at least one home off its foundation and damaging others, officials and residents said.

There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Waverly Person, a geophysicist at the U.S. Geological Survey's Earthquake Information Service at Golden, Colo., said the quake measured 4.2 on the Richter scale and was centered about 55 miles southeast of San Antonio.

Atascosa County Deputy Sheriff Amber Williams said police began receiving calls about the quake at 7:35 a.m.

36 killed in Tamil rebel attack

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Tamil rebels attacked a military post and killed 19 soldiers in northeastern Mullaittivu district today, officials said.

Two Sinhalese civilians visiting the military post at the time of the attack also were killed.

Troops fought off the rebels with tanks, artillery and helicopter gun ships for more than 90 minutes. Military officials said they killed more than 15 Tamil guerrillas.

More than 17,500 people have been killed since 1983 when the Tamil rebels began fighting for a separate homeland in north and east Sri Lanka.

Sheriff's fake-murder plot works

PENSACOLA, Fla. — Deborah Rasheed and her mother posed as corpses, complete with pools of fake blood, for photographs authorities used to arrest her estranged husband on charges he tried to get a hit man to kill the women.

Ahmad Rasheed, 41, was arrested March 31, the same day the photos were faked, but the Escambia County Sheriff's Department kept the charges secret until yesterday.

Deputies were afraid releasing the information would jeopardize a related investigation.

A police informer, who allegedly had been approached by Rasheed, pretended to agree to the contract and later gave Rasheed the photographs as proof, Sanderson said. Authorities then arrested Rasheed, who paid nothing but allegedly talked of splitting life insurance and Social Security money.

Russian nuclear plants decried

U.S. experts say more accidents are inevitable

Los Angeles Times and The Associated Press

Despite five years of intermittent Western-backed safety programs, Russia's sprawling nuclear industry remains so dangerously antiquated that more accidents like this week's explosion of a radioactive waste tank are virtually inevitable, according to U.S. experts.

For the short run, environmental experts said, the only way to deal with plants like the Tomsk-7 plutonium reprocessing facility, where Tuesday's accident occurred, is to shut them down.

"This incident was at a plant that shouldn't have been operating to begin with," said Tom Cochran, senior scientist at the National Resources Defense Council.

THE TOMSK FACILITY was designed to produce plutonium for the Soviet Union's nuclear weapons. It is one of three still operating. The others are at Krasnoyarsk in Siberia and Chelyabinsk in the Urals.

Now that Russia has agreed to dismantle much of the nuclear arsenal, there is no reason to produce additional plutonium, Cochran said.

However, Russia has resisted calls for dismantling the plants. U.S. officials say Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin's government seems reluctant to shut the facilities because that would eliminate badly needed jobs. In addition, officials say, Russian industrialists believe that they can make money by selling plutonium on the international energy fuel market, although U.S. economists believe the value of the material is far below its cost of production.

Even if Moscow agrees to close the plutonium processing plants, most of the nuclear industry will remain because there is no way the hard-pressed Russian economy could afford to shut down the nuclear power stations that provide about 12 percent of the nation's electricity supply.

> *"This incident was at a plant that shouldn't have been operating to begin with."*
>
> **Tom Cochran**
> *Senior scientist at the National Resources Defense Council*

And dependence on nuclear power is even greater in some other republics of the former Soviet Union, such as Ukraine, where 24 percent of the power is from nuclear sources, and Lithuania, where the figure is 58 percent.

MEANWHILE, hundreds of disaster workers cleared snow and built dams in the Siberian wilderness yesterday in an effort to clean up the radiation in the secret city of Tomsk-7.

Commonwealth Television showed heavy damage at the nuclear weapons complex in Tomsk-7, where an underground tank containing a poisonous mix of liquid nuclear waste exploded and burned on Tuesday.

The roof and several walls of a plutonium processing facility were destroyed in the blast, which spewed a radioactive cloud into the atmosphere.

The Russian Air Defense Command said the wind was blowing the radioactive cloud northeast from Tomsk-7 at a height of 1.2 miles and a speed of 22 mph, according to the television. There were conflicting reports about the extent of the contamination and the cloud.

VLADIMIR ALEXANDROV, a shift supervisor at the plutonium processing plant, told the ITAR-Tass news agency that one main reason for the accident was poor work discipline.

He said nuclear industry workers take little responsibility for their actions because pay is low and little heed is paid to poor working conditions.

Although no evacuations were ordered and officials said the contaminated areas were unpopulated, the Russian government called it the worst nuclear accident since the April 1986 explosion and fire at the Chernobyl atomic power plant in Ukraine.

That accident rated a 7 on the International Atomic Energy Association's seven-point scale, while the Tomsk-7 accident rated a 3.

At the complex, workers in masks measured radiation in the area, while more than 500 firefighters and civil defense troops cleared away contaminated snow and dirt. They also built dams to prevent melting snow from spreading the contamination.

A military Mi-8 helicopter flew over the largely uninhabited area of dense forest, taking measurements as part of a continuous radiation monitoring program.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP Greenpeace said several villages were at risk from fallout, and called for immediate shutdown of the plant.

But Marina Ryklina, a spokeswoman for the government's State Emergency Committee, said the radiation level in Georgiyevka, a village of 20 people about 14 miles from Tomsk-7, was 0.035 roentgens an hour, and did not warrant evacuation.

Five years ago, the United States and the Soviet Union agreed to begin a joint effort to improve the safety of nuclear plats through better management techniques, training and operating procedures. But most of the effort, so far, has been limited to exchanges of information. The political turmoil that marked the break-up of the Soviet Union into 12 independent republics has slowed the program.

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission official said the United States has spent about $25 million so far on construction of plant simulators for training in Russia and the Ukraine, development of a manual of safety procedures and other projects.

Yeltsin sees extremist rule if he loses vote

Says 'world will shudder' if he fails in referendum

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — President Boris N. Yeltsin predicted today that extremist forces in Russia will assume power and "the entire world will shudder" if he loses the April 25 referendum on confidence in his leadership.

Yeltsin

Intensifying his campaign in the weeks before the vote, Yeltsin invited the country's top newspaper editors and broadcast chiefs to the Kremlin and told them the referendum "is the fate of Russia."

The balloting has shaped up as a climax to the power struggle between Yeltsin and the Communist-dominated Congress of People's Deputies, Russia's highest parliamentary body.

"If there is no president (as a result of the vote), the power will be assumed by the most extremist forces and the entire world will shudder," Yeltsin said.

His main rival for power, legislative speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, told Russia's regional legislators earlier today that while the referendum is important, it will not solve the country's main problem — the economy.

Yeltsin, who has seen his authority steadily stripped away by Congress, originally sought the vote as a way to ask people to pass judgment on his leadership.

Congress' hard-liners added questions to the referendum, including one on his economic reforms that may prove embarrassing to the president. Besides questions on leadership and economic reform, voters will be asked whether there should be new presidential and legislative elections. The Congress also set up rules for the referendum that make it harder for Yeltsin to win the vote. Pro-Yeltsin legislators yesterday asked Russia's Constitutional Court to clarify the voting rules.

At issue is the number of votes needed to make the referendum valid: a majority of people casting ballots or a majority of Russia's 106 million eligible voters. If the court rules it is the latter, it will be more difficult for Yeltsin to secure victory.

When Yeltsin was elected president in June 1991 to a five-year term, he failed to win a majority of eligible voters, getting 43 percent. But he did receive 60 percent of all votes cast.

Constitutional Court Chief Justice Valery Zorkin did not say when the court would rule on the issue.

Gay Alliance wins tax lawsuit

From page 1A

upheld the assessor's decision.

In August 1991, the Alliance sued the city over its refusal to grant an exemption.

Under state law, an organization must be "educational, charitable," or must foster "moral or mental improvement of men, women or children" to receive an exemption.

City lawyers have claimed that the Alliance serves as an advocacy group for homosexuals and does not meet the state's standards for an exemption.

Siracuse wrote, in response: "To the extent the Alliance is an advocacy group, as charged by the city, it advocates not homosexuality but the legitimate rights and needs of the gay and lesbian community, rights recognized by the city in its anti-discrimination ordinance. This is essentially an educational function.

"These activities also serve to build tolerance and understanding between that community and the larger public, contributing to the moral and mental improvement of the entire community," Siracuse wrote.

Siracuse ruled that the city assessor apparently denied the exemption because of "the character of (the Alliance's) membership and the content of its speech."

Siracuse wrote that recent legal tactics by the city, such as a request to depose Alliance President Paul Scheib, were "clearly frivolous."

"It is hard to escape the suspicion that the demands were made in order to harass and prejudice the Alliance and to delay the resolution of this case," Siracuse wrote.

Yacknin said the Alliance has previously offered to settle with the city, but has always been rebuffed. Now, the city, which can appeal the ruling, faces possible sanctions and may have to pay the Alliance's legal fees.

"I have put in hundreds of hours on this case and they knew that," Yacknin said. "This is taxpayers' money which I would prefer not to have to earn."

Sanctions can range to up to $10,000 and can go into a fund that reimburses legal clients who were victimized by bad lawyers.

DICK DOUGHERTY

From page 1A

the Paragraph Factory, she showed up one night in the newsroom, handing out page layouts.

She gave me a huge stack, all blank. I looked in the copy box and it was empty. No stories, no photos. I looked at the clock. Deadline was only half an hour away. I looked across the room and discovered the reason. No reporters! I'd inadvertently given them all the day off.

Miss Taylor, stared at me in disgust. "Mon Dieu!" she said, and I woke up drenched in sweat.

Mean old broad, Mademoiselle Taylor. She never did like me. Here I am 72 going on 73 and she still won't leave me alone.

Just the other night I woke with a start. My column was due. I stared at my notes. They *were in French*! Miss Taylor gave me that look and rolled her eyes. "Ree-shard, Ree-shard." A sad case. Tres triste.

The shrink who discussed the Examination Dream in the *Times* says the anxieties you collect at work trigger earlier memories buried in neural storage.

"The new anxiety triggers the same node, going back to when the feelings were first laid down in memories," she said.

You keep working down into the same nightmare lode, unearthing earlier and earlier memories, she explained. "The one you wake up with in the morning is often the early childhood example of the same anxiety.

Miss Taylor is long gone now. I met her at a reunion once long ago. She remembered me!

Funny thing, though. When she smiled I could see she must have been quite pretty, not at all the way I remembered. Not at all stern and not at all French.

But it didn't help. When she came back at night after that, she was as mean as ever and still disgusted with me.

But of course I deserved it.

Dick Dougherty's column appears Mondays through Fridays. Call him at (716) 258-2563 or write 55 Exchange Blvd., Rochester, N.Y. 14614.

Mental illness common in zoo animals

The Associated Press

LONDON — Zoos should provide their charges a more wildlife-like environment in order to safeguard the mental health of lions, tigers and bears, according to Britain's Born Free Foundation.

The foundation, a charity that monitors animals in captivity, says it has evidence that mental illness is rampant among zoo animals.

But it did not calculate the numbers of animals affected, leading some to question the validity of the conclusions.

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